

Uncle Sam Intends To Protect Your Soldier Boy From Booze and the "Great Red Plague"

LEST the American army of democracy, the 500,000 chosen crusaders, suffer more casualties from moral disorders than from the shells of the enemy, there is to be a military departure in prophylaxis against vice and intemperance. The wastage of the Spanish-American war was from bad beef instead of bullets, from mosquitoes in place of missiles, from flies and disease rather than from the destructive force of the Spaniards.

Science and sanitation triumphed over the mosquito. Now it remains for American army moral sanitation to triumph over the ruthless enemies, booze and disease.

One can read in the draft law, in the regulations and in the express actions of Secretary of War Baker that he means this army of 500,000 clean young Americans to be the first army that ever took the field and stayed in the field and returned from the field untainted by the dual war vices. Secretary Baker is determined that the wounds inflicted upon our army of liberation shall be those inflicted by the central powers, and not those so habitually inflicted by the army upon itself.

Recreation is to take the place of idleness and indulgence. Adjoining miasmatic swamps of booze and vice are to be drained. Resort will be had in garrison to healthful exercise, to wholesome amusement, to off-hour activities, to athletics, to play and to the devices that healthy men indulge in at home.

Says Surgeon Major D. C. Howard in a recent war department bulletin:

"Recreation will be of great value. Idleness is said to be the mother of lechery. Wholesome amusements and athletics will make the garrison so attractive that the soldier will be inclined to spend his spare time in garrison. No present-day problem in military preventive medicine is of greater importance in relation to the physical efficiency of the army than that of effectual control of venereal disease."

Thus boldly is the issue stated, because thus boldly does the secretary of war propose to meet man's worst enemy, which Surgeon Major Maus describes as "The Great Red Plague."

Here is the common foe of embattled mankind. Aid and comfort have been given this enemy by the ill-advised and prudish censorship of social science.

"We want no damaged goods in the American army of democracy," Capt. E. B. Vedder of the United States Medical corps, declares. And, to show how strictly does General Gorgas propose to make the American expedition as clean as he made Havana and Panama, the Wassermann test, and not mere height and eyesight, is the supreme standard of fitness for this war.

This 500,000 army of select men, possessing youth, physique and health, the war department proposes to return to their homes, if they survive mere shot and shell, as fit fathers of a future race. The distressful (many returned men and officers say the disgraceful) social conditions that obtained on the Mexican border will not be repeated at Plattsburg, at Niagara, at Fort Sheridan or in Europe. The El Paso vice barracks, the hideous dives—this nightmare will not be lived through again. It belongs to the typhoid-malaria age.

The great American game of baseball will form a vital part in the training of the soldiers of the army of democracy. When young America in civil life is not at work it is at the ball game or at the motion picture show or at play in some form. The American expeditionary soldier will play as fast as he will train for service.

This is the dictum of a recreation expert who knows the value of recreation, moral and educational, and who also knows the philosophy of Messrs. Baker and Gorgas. My authoritative informant continues with an enthusiasm that is infectious:

"Good athletes take such pride in their physical fitness (and good soldiers are necessarily good athletes) that they will not abuse their health by indulgences. But, aside from personal pride in fitness, play is in itself the great prophylaxis against immoral abuses."

"Work is a prophylactic agent against disease, but play is its counterpart, if not its peer. Play means health. The play spirit alone is strictly normal. Play is the preventive against physical and mental and moral breakdown."

The rediscovery of play as a social agent is one of the most vital discoveries of modern times. Recreation is its organized application. It has been applied educationally. It has been deliberately applied to redeem the city youth from crime and degeneracy. But it lent itself naturally, unconsciously, to the adults, needs in the marvelous development of recreations other than booze and vice.

Secretary of War Baker is sensitive to modern sociological developments. It went without saying that, whatever might be his merits or demerits in practical military organization, he of all men would bring to the American army of democracy an appreciation of the sociological factors. A system of recreation for the enlisted man that will supplant booze and vice will undoubtedly take shape from the earliest mobilization, and will continue to be a safety device for this uniquely protected army on the battle front.

One observes with keen interest that the war department has engaged a number of recreation experts for the supervision of recreation at the large training camps. There is here no mere theoretic attention to play, no paper application of recreation philosophy, no mere philanthropic interest in the soldier's idle hour stillar to the interest which a charitable gentleman would take in supplying tracts to a hospital, or books to an old ladies' home, or a bat and ball to a nephew.

The problem before us is scarcely of a part with sewing society work. However, to avoid any gesture of sensationalism, it is well to follow the plain, serious words of the war department bulletins to illustrate the vice side of the problem. Capt. E. B. Vedder of the United States Medical corps, in War Department Bulletin No. 8, writes substantially as follows:

"Our sick report has been a reproach in that we have had more men on the sick report because of

venereal diseases than any other army in the world. Tests show that 16 per cent of the recruits are infected on enlistment. Venereal prophylaxis is the order of the day."

Statistics are available to those who will not give them specific publicity showing that these social diseases unfitted hundreds of thousands of soldiers at the front from duty on the firing line. More terrible than the bullets of the combatants alike to the invaders and to the invaded were the ravages of these diseases at Badajoz, in the Peninsular campaign, as to Rome and Naples in the Spanish invasion. More terrible than an army with banners are the camp followers in its wake.

These disquieting truths should be kept hidden, lest the patriotic spirit be discouraged, provided the United States proposed to take part in the war on this basis, provided the propagation of disease were one of "our objects" in the war, and provided there were no way of protecting our 500,000 chosen soldiers and thereafter the nation from the ravages of a plague.

But the war department knows this enemy to be vulnerable, and it proposes to fight it in the open field with social prophylaxis, and to crush it, both in the training camp and in its present so-fortuitous lair, the trench zones of Europe.

But before these preventive recreation plans can be made effective there must be positive exclusion of the unfit. "Weed out the infected" is the new watchword of the recruiting authorities. Infected recruits, if not detected, will prove an impediment to the army, filling first the hospitals and finally the pension lists.

The draft law contains no provision more vital to the security of the nation than section 13, which authorizes Secretary of War Baker to draw a dead line about our military camps for infection.

The Canadian military camps became excursion points for thousands of wives, mothers, sisters and, under this cloak, of others who had no particular qualification except enthusiasm for the soldier and a pronounced reaction toward the uniform.

Driven from the mile or more limit, these latter



set up at whatever distance and expressed their patriotism in indulgences for which the war made a tolerant conscience. And Canadians are among the strictest puritans in the world. By devious pretexts, hundreds of these soldier-smitten women followed the units to Europe.

We may quite as well ignore the experiences of the allies in Europe, for our own experiences are rich enough. The government has issued no bulletin showing the number of soldiers incapacitated by disease during the Mexican expedition, but the only available authorities, the individual militiamen and officers, recite a distressing narrative of debauchery on the border. In more than one instance dives were set up in full view of the officers' camp, though, of course, outside of the authority of the war department. And to such wretched dens the soldiers resorted because of the utter vacuity of border soldiering and the lack of adequate recreation facilities.

It is these experiences which now determine the war department to achieve a new triumph for sanitation by inaugurating a system of thorough prophylaxis, substituting recreation for stupidity, idleness and vice indulgence. The American army of democracy is not to be a disease-infested, booze-inflicted army. It is to triumph over mankind's worst enemies before it leaves our soil, and it is to carry its triumphs to Europe, there to advertise to the whole world the new American idea in social prophylaxis.

To such an army every American mother will be proud to lend her son.—William J. Black, in New York Tribune Magazine.

Use of Wireless In the Great War

Wireless has proved a great boon in war. A scout airplane today if up to the minute has a wireless set aboard. This provides it with the only means of communication with its base, or with the battery of heavy guns, when engaged upon the direction of artillery fire. The wireless is the voice of the oceans. It links up ship with ship, however distant from the land; or from the recognized routes of trade. Without it modern naval warfare would be impossible. The S O S signal is the most urgent and sacred call in the wireless world, a call few operators will ignore. And yet the enemy has made false use of this signal. There was one case of an American skipper somewhere off Bantry bay, who, picking up an S O S some 50 miles distant, made thither at top speed, to find on arrival, not a vessel in distress, but a German submarine, the commander of which not only made no apology, but was so annoyed to find that it was an American instead of a British boat that he had snared that he threatened to sink it there and then; and probably he would have put his threat into force had not a British destroyer showed up on the horizon.

Another case was that of the cargo steamer Anglo-Californian, homeward bound from America. She sighted a German submarine in mid-ocean, and made off as fast as her engine would permit, the enemy in hot pursuit; her wireless operator sending out the S O S signal as fast as he knew how. Meanwhile the shell fire grew fiercer, the ship was raked from end to end. They had not a single weapon of their own with which to retaliate, but they stuck to it as only British sailors can. Then there came an answer to their signals. "Coming to your help. Hang on." It was from a British man-of-war, somewhere across

the horizon, far out of sight. By this time the firing had grown so fierce that the operator was forced to manipulate his key lying on his back in his cabin. At last the welcome news, "Can see your smoke. Hang on." "For God's sake, hurry up; they're shelling us like h—," replied the Californian operator. This the German operator intercepted, and had his guns trained full on their aerial, their last hope of salvation. Luckily the German shooting was wild, and eventually the British warship dove in sight. Immediately the submarine dived, and they were ordered to report her trail.

Yet earlier in the war occurred the unhappy Breslau and Goeben affair. When surrounded by British craft, these two powerful men-of-war succeeded in effecting an escape, sighted only by one of our light cruisers. Immediately she wireless for help.

In the year 1915, 26 vessels were reported by the radio inspectors of the United States to have sent out the call for assistance. The calls included accidents of all kinds, including collision, running ashore, broken-down machinery, storm, cargo shifting and torpedoes. In one case, that of a Greek vessel which caught fire in mid-ocean, she was abandoned by the passengers and crew, aggregating 470. Within two and a half hours two other vessels had taken on board, in one case 341 survivors and in the other the remaining 129. The original vessel was entirely destroyed.

On another occasion a vessel with 1,700 Italians aboard caught fire at sea. The S O S signal immediately brought up another vessel, which took off 600 survivors, then conveyed the disabled boat into port without the loss of a single life.

DRYING IN THE SUN

Have All Fruits and Vegetables Properly Prepared.

SIMPLE APPARATUS FOR WORK

Bright, Hot Sunny Days Are Best, and Close Watch Should Be Kept That Rain or Dew Does Not Hit Product—Avoid Insects.

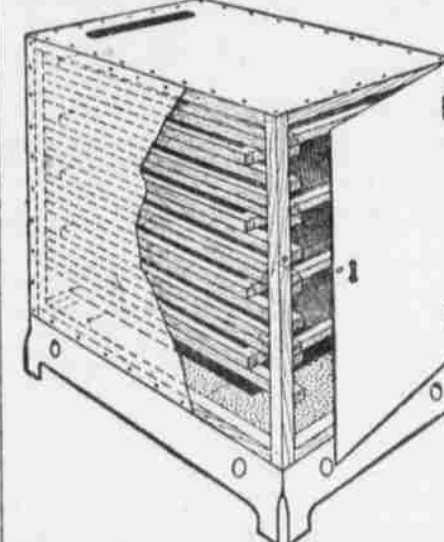
(From FARMERS' BULLETIN 841, United States Department of Agriculture.)

The drying of fruits and vegetables to the sun is a simple process if they have been prepared properly. In its simplest form such drying consists in spreading the freshly prepared slices or pieces on sheets of paper, or, if there is danger of the product's sticking, spreading on old pieces of muslin held down with stones. Bright, hot, sunny days are chosen for this work, and a close watch is kept to see that no rain or dew wets the product. If flies and other insects are abundant, a mosquito bar is thrown over the product. Once or twice a day the slices are stirred or turned over with the hand and the thin ones which dry first are taken out. Sun drying has much to recommend it, since it requires no expenditure of fuel and there is little danger of the product becoming overheated. Dust, however, gathers on the product, and, unless it is protected carefully, flies, and especially certain insects which habitually attack dried fruits, will lay their eggs upon it. These eggs later will hatch out, and the worms, or larvae, will riddle the dried fruits or vegetables, rendering them unfit for the table.

Trays of Uniform Size.

Fruits and vegetables, when dried in the sun, generally are spread on large trays of uniform size, so constructed that they can be stacked one on top of the other and protected from rain by means of a cover made of oilcloth, canvas or roofing paper.

A very cheap tray can be made of strips of lumber three-fourths of an inch thick and two inches wide, which form the sides and ends, and lath, which is nailed on to form the bottom. Spaces one-eighth inch wide should be left between the laths for ventilation, and the trays can be raised off the ground by placing them on poles or an improvised trestle. As laths are four



Metal-Covered Cabinet Type of Homemade Drier.

feet long, these lath trays are most economical of material when made four feet in length.

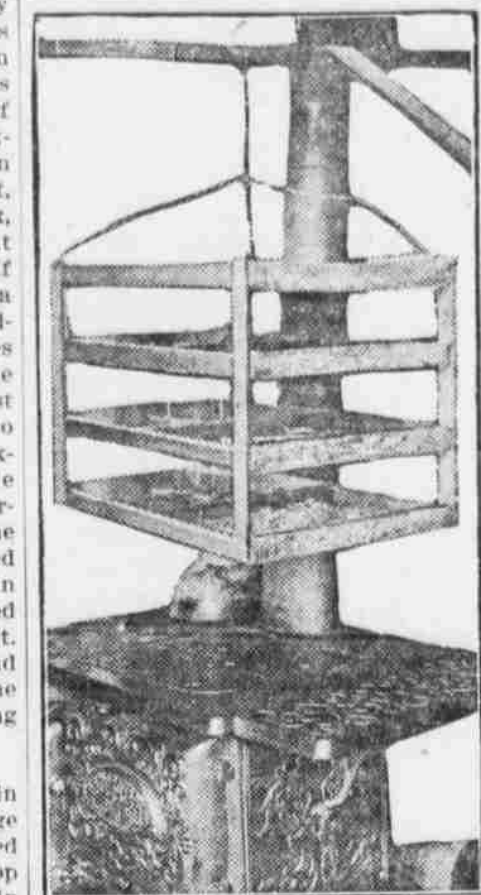
Better but more expensive trays can be made by substituting galvanized-wire screen, one-eighth or one-fourth inch mesh, for the laths, in which case the most economical size would depend upon the width of the wire screen obtainable.

A cheap and very satisfactory drier for use over the kitchen stove can be made by any handy boy or carpenter from a small amount of small-mesh galvanized-wire netting and a number of laths or strips of wood about one-half inch thick and two inches wide. The screen may be tacked directly on the framework to make the drying shelves, or the framework can be made to support separate trays. By using two laths nailed together, the framework can be stiffened and larger trays made if desirable. This form or any of the lighter makes of driers can be suspended from the ceiling over the kitchen range or over the oil, gasoline or gas stove, and it will utilize the hot air which rises during the cooking hour. It can be raised out of the way or swung to one side by a crane made of lath when the stove is required for cooking purposes, and lowered or swung back to utilize the heat which otherwise would be wasted when the top of the stove is not in use.

Another homemade cookstove drier can be used on a wood or coal range or a kerosene stove can be made easily and cheaply. Dimensions: Base 24 by 16 inches; height 36 inches. A base six inches high is made of galvanized sheet iron. This base slightly flares toward the bottom and has two small openings for ventilation in each of the four sides. On the base rests a boxlike frame made of 1 or 1½-inch strips of wood. The two sides are braced with 1½-inch strips which serve as cleats on which the trays in the drier rest. These are placed at intervals of three inches. The frame is covered with tin or galvanized sheet iron which is tacked to the wooden strips of the frame. Thin strips of wood may be used instead of tin or sheet iron. The door is fitted on small hinges and fastened with a thumb latch. It opens wide, so that the trays can be removed easily. The bottom of the drier is made of a piece of perforated galvanized sheet iron. Two inches above the bottom is placed a solid sheet of

galvanized iron which is three inches less in length and width than the bottom. This sheet rests on two wires fastened to the sides of the drier. This prevents the direct heat from coming in contact with the product and serves as a radiator to spread the heat more evenly.

The first tray is placed three inches above the radiator. The trays rest on the cleats three inches apart. A drier of the given dimensions will hold eight trays. The frame of the tray is made of one-inch strips on which is tacked galvanized screen wire, which forms the bottom of the tray. The tray is 21 by 15 inches, making it three inches less in depth than the drier. The lowest tray, when placed in the drier, is pushed to the back, leaving the three-inch space in front. The next tray is placed even with the front, leaving a



Homemade Drier, Made of Lath and Wire Netting.

three-inch space in the back. The other trays alternate in the same way. This permits the current of heated air to pass around and over the trays. A ventilator opening, about two inches wide and six inches long, is left in the top of the drier, through which the moist air may pass away.

This principle of construction is followed so that currents of air will pass over the product as well as up through it, gathering the moisture and passing away. The movement of the current of air induces a more rapid and uniform drying. The upper trays can be shifted to the lower part of the drier, and the lower trays to the upper part as drying proceeds, so as to dry the products uniformly throughout.

Another Home Drier.

Still another home drier is the cookstove oven. Bits of food, leftovers, especially sweet corn, can be dried on plates in a very slow oven or on the back of the cookstove and saved for winter use. If the oven is very warm, the door should be left ajar and the temperature of the oven often noted. Trays for use in the oven can be made from a convenient-sized galvanized wire screen by bending up the edges one or two inches.

Cookstove driers on the market are of two types. One type consists of a series of trays upon which the material to be dried is spread. These trays are placed in a framework one above the other, forming a compartment through which the heated air rises, carrying off the moisture. The second type consists of a shallow flat metal box filled with water and designed so that one end can rest on the back of the stove



Drying Fruits and Vegetables on Homemade Racks by Forcing Air at Room Temperature Across Them.

and the other on a leg reaching to the floor. It also may be supported over a lamp.

Use of Electric Fan.

The use of an electric fan in facilitating drying is feasible for those who already own a fan. It has been found that many sliced vegetables and fruits placed in long trays three by one foot and stacked in two tiers, end to end, before an electric fan can be dried to the requisite dryness within twenty-four hours. Some require much less time. For instance, sliced string beans and shredded sweet potatoes will dry before a fan running at a moderate speed within a few hours. In many cities the electric fan will cost not more than one-fourth of a cent an hour to run. The fan should be placed close to the stack of trays, and they should not be filled so full that the air cannot pass freely through them. The fan method has a marked advantage in that the product keeps cool owing to evaporation while it is being dried, thus tending to retain the color and eliminate spoilage.